

## PURDUE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION 2019-2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

### OFFICERS AND ADVISORS:

President	Tom Turpin
Vice President	Norm Long
Secretary	Judy Ware
Treasurer	Lucia Anderson
Historian	Sue Hume Graham
Past President	Don Gentry
Advisors	William Bell

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Benefits	Larry Pherson
Campus and Community Activities	Jim Lehman
Communication	Karen F. Lembcke
Finance	Lucia Anderson
Hospitality	William I. Bennett
Kickoff Luncheon	Karen D. Ferry and Viki S. Taylor
Program	Jerry Day
Purposeful Living Conference	Olivia B. Wood
Scholarship	Melinda H. Bain
Trips and Tours	Joma Roe

**ANNUAL TRANSITION/KICKOFF MEETING:** This year, the annual transition meeting will be combined with the kickoff meeting. It will be held virtually in September due to the Corona-19 virus pandemic and cancellation of many programs and activities. This year the meeting will be different but we will still recognize outgoing and new officers and committee members. A sharing of what the fall programs will be and how they will be offered to the PURA retirees will be discussed. In March, Purdue University was “closed” and will reopen with health and safety procedures in place in August. The passing of the PURA Key from outgoing president Tom Turpin to incoming president Norm Long will occur.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS:

**Arthur G. Hansen Award:** The Arthur Hansen Award for service to Purdue Retirees was awarded to the Fire Department at the Annual Purdue Retirees Luncheon and again at the Annual PURA Kick-Off Luncheon. The department received a trophy and a \$2500 award from TIAA.

In March of 2018, the creation of a Developmental Grant Program to encourage Purdue departments and units to expand their activities for retirees was established. This year, the awarding of grants will be postponed.

**Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award:** Olivia Wood was awarded the Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award at the Annual Kick-Off Luncheon - 2019 for her years of service to PURA.

**BENEFITS COMMITTEE:** Working with University staff and healthcare consultants, PURcare and the Medicare Advantage Plans were extended for 2019. Both plans remained unchanged. The premium for

Medicare Advantage, which is \$198.07 per month, a reduction of about \$10/month. The monthly premium for PURcare increased from \$265.39/ mo. to \$281.80, an increase of about 6%. Utilization of these insurance plans is approaching 2,600 members.

A revised enrollment eligibility policy was implemented in Fall 2019. The new policy gives Purdue Medicare eligible retirees the flexibility of delaying the decision to enroll in a PURA plan until the second Medicare Open Enrollment Period following retiree's retirement.

An evaluation of the negotiation of the 2020 insurance package was conducted during the Fall of 2019. Recommendations resulting from that evaluation will be utilized during the negotiation of the 2021 insurance package.

The Committee is considering options that might assist members with a less expensive insurance plan. This work is in its initial stages and will continue into the upcoming year.

**CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:** Three events were offered in the 2019-20 year. PURA members toured the "village" of tiny houses erected near Purdue West Shopping Plaza and the new Aspire student apartment complex. A Common Read featured John Norberg's book, Ever True: 150 Years of Giant Leaps at Purdue University with guest speaker John Purdue (portrayed by John Norberg). The third event was a tour of Tippecanoe County Courthouse and a presentation about the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program. These programs were well attended and enriched our members.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** March 2019 brought a major change in the mailing of PURA News. The Board decided to send PURA News to our retirees electronically. Our PURA News is an excellent communication tool and has a variety of articles and news. Scott Ksander has shared monthly articles on technical issues, Chris Rearick on health issues, and Sara Jane (Sally) Coffman on light hearted issues – "Smile Corner".

**FINANCE:** The Finance Committee with the Treasurer as Chair implemented the plan to consolidate all finance, endowments and budget responsibilities into one committee.

**HOSPITALITY:** The committee served as greeters and assisted PURA participants in the monthly luncheons, annual kickoff luncheon, annual retiree flu shots, the Purposeful Living in Retirement seminar, and information tables at Spring Fling. In January, MCL (restaurant) closed and the VFW was selected as the new site for PURA Luncheon meetings. The March meeting was held there.

**KICKOFF LUNCHEON:** The annual Kick-Off Luncheon organized by our Kick-Off Luncheon Committee was another great event with large attendance, great fellowship, door prizes and speaker- John Norberg (as John Purdue) made an outstanding presentation.

**MONTHLY PROGRAM LUNCHEONS:** The quality and variety of the programs at PURA's monthly luncheons during 2019-2020 have been excellent. We were only able to have programs till March due to the pandemic. Those presented this year included Destination Mars, Tech Toys and Relevant Technology, John Purdue Reflections (John Norberg), Lafayette's Underground Teays River, Current Developments and Future Plans for Lafayette, and Challenges of Delivering Effective Therapies to Mitigate Neurodegenerative Disorders. Programs from April through August 2020 were postponed due to the pandemic.

**PURDUE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS/CHARACTERS:** A cast of PURA members portrayed historical characters for special events. The members/characters portrayed were Olivia Wood (Mary Matthews), David Caldwell (Orville Redenbacher), Scott Rumble (Harvey Wiley), John Norberg (John Purdue), Carolyn Jones (Lillian Gilbreth), Mary Alice Nebold (Amelia Earhart), Joyce Miles (Virginia Meredith), Pete Bill (John T. McCutcheon), and Tom Turpin (J. Clifford Turpin). The characters interacted with folks at special events and were in character and shared their stories of their lives and times at Purdue. This was a truly “living history” experience for those folks who got to meet these Purdue legends.

**PRE-RETIREMENT MEETINGS:** Members of PURA’s Benefits Committee participated with staff from Purdue Human Resources in presenting “Road to Retirement” seminars for current employees. These continue to be popular, well-attended events.

**PURA WEBSITE:** [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees) Our website continues to grow in content as well as readership. The scope of the information provided about PURA programs, activities, benefits, health insurance, and short-term employment opportunities continues to expand. Our website also includes a photo gallery and houses archival information regarding PURA history as well as copies of current and past newsletters and annual reports. Links are provided to information about University cultural and athletic events as well as announcements regarding Purdue and community events and resources. PURA’s Communication Committee maintains our website, and it is updated at least monthly. Thanks to Jim Daniel for his support of the website.

**PURPOSEFUL LIVING IN RETIREMENT (PLIR) SEMINAR:** The 2020 PLIR was cancelled on March 10, 2020 due to the pandemic. Plans for the conference had been made but postponed to 2021.

**RETIREE DEMOGRAPHICS:** Currently, there are over 5000 Purdue retirees, and they live around the world. About 4000, however, reside in Indiana. Approximately half are faculty members or administrators and half are members of the clerical or service staffs.

**RETIREE DIRECTORY:** To facilitate communication among Purdue retirees and with former colleagues in the units where they worked, PURA and the University Development Office continue to explore ways that retiree directory information in the University’s data base could be made accessible through PURA’s website.

**RETIREE GIVING TO PURDUE:** Purdue retirees continue to be generous givers. Once again, they contributed over \$4,000,000 to the University in outright and deferred gifts.

**RETIREE GIVING TO THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER LAFAYETTE:** Purdue Retirees also are very supportive of our community. For the ninth consecutive year, they contributed significantly to the annual campaign. This year \$167,594.10 was pledged to the local United Way annual campaign.

**SCHOLARSHIP:** Awards in excess of \$11,000 were made by the PURA scholarship endowments for the 2019-20 academic year to 11 Purdue students. The Book Value of the PURA Student Scholarship Endowments as of March 31, 2020 is \$150,041.64. The Book Value of the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke is \$50,959 as of March 31, 2020. We appreciate the generosity of all donors and friends of PURA.

**SPRING FLING:** Spring Fling was cancelled this year due to the pandemic.

**TRIPS AND TOURS:** Trips and Tours included an offering to Inspired Fire Glass Studio and Gallery, Beef and Boards – “Buddy Holly Story”, and Louisville “Christmas Celebration of Lights”/ Schimpff’s Confectionary.

2019-2020 has been a year of excellent offerings and opportunities. Due to the pandemic, programs and offerings were cancelled after March. The Executive Board held a Zoom meeting June 3, 2020 and discussed how to proceed during these challenging times. We all want to keep connected and continue to develop relationships and offerings for our retirees. The annual reports written by our officers and committee chairs tell even more about all that occurred. These are available electronically on PURA’s website [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees) by clicking first on “Archives” then on “Recent Annual Reports.” Hardcopies of these documents can be found in the PURA collection at the Purdue University Library Archives.

Sue Hume Graham, Historian Purdue University Retirees Association June 2020